

To whom it may concern,

We would like to invite you to join us in a major outreach effort, to promote public awareness of the dynamics of our Sun and its influences on life on Earth, and how this is addressed by solar physics research both from space and from the ground.

The occasion is the 5th anniversary of the SOHO spacecraft, a unique mission that has brought us a wealth of new information and insights into the Sun.

From its vantage point in space between the Earth and the Sun, SOHO has an uninterrupted view of the Sun, making observations that are impossible from the ground due to the influences of the atmosphere. As a result, SOHO has revolutionized many aspects of solar research, from the deep interior through the dynamic surface and atmosphere, out to the solar wind.

SOHO has also been a great success in reaching out to the public. Images and results from the spacecraft have been featured on television news, in several TV documentaries, and play a major role in a new IMAX movie called SOLARMAX.

The mission is a project of international cooperation between the European Space Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, with participants from 10 different countries involved in 12 different instruments. We envision that the 5th anniversary of SOHO in orbit will be an equally diverse and international event.

In a single event, solar researchers all over Europe and the USA will be meeting the public in a concerted effort, holding lectures about the Sun and SOHO in museums and planetariums.

By itself, the fact that this happens all over Europe and in the US should be worthy of some attention from the press. The most important thing, however, is that local presentations in the native language will give a national touch to the event, increasing the chances for the press to pick up the story, which will be officially announced by both ESA and NASA.

The event will be held on Sun-Earth Day, Friday 27th April. In Europe, ESA will provide outreach materials (posters, CDROMs, and stickers) and assistance in finding lecturers for the presentations.

We hope you will join us in promoting this event as a unique and exciting opportunity to share the discoveries of SOHO and other solar observatories. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. You are also welcome to visit the SOHO web pages, at <http://sohowww.estec.esa.nl>, to learn more about the mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Bonnet'.

Roger M. Bonnet
Director of Science
European Space Agency

European Space Agency

Agence spatiale européenne

SOHO Project Scientist Team

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